



## Comments Open on Stinger® Use on Strawberries

**Release Date: 03/20/15**

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MADISON – Public comments are open through March 30 on a proposed special pesticide registration that would allow strawberry growers to use Stinger® to control weeds.

The registration would help strawberry growers control broadleaf weeds, especially dandelion, Canada thistle, bull thistle, and perennial clovers. These weeds have become a problem in Wisconsin strawberry production in recent years. They compete with strawberries for nutrients, water and light. In addition, thistles create uncomfortable picking conditions, especially at pick-your-own operations, and may present a human health liability for growers. Therefore, it is important for growers to eliminate these weeds before harvest begins, but no other pesticides exist that can be used pre-harvest.

Dow AgroSciences LLC is the manufacturer, and the active ingredient is clopyralid. Stinger® is registered for use on other crops, tree plantations, pastures, fallow cropland and some non-crop areas, and for special use on cranberries. Its use on strawberries has been allowed previously under two successive five-year permits. The most recent one expired Dec. 31, 2014. The department has not received any reports of adverse effects from the previous special registrations.

The preliminary environmental assessment indicates that the proposed registration will not require a full environmental assessment. This special registration will expire December 31, 2019.

For a copy of the assessment, contact Otto Oemig, DATCP, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI, 53708-8911, 608-224-4547, [otto.oemig@wi.gov](mailto:otto.oemig@wi.gov). It is also available for review at the department Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 2811 Agriculture Dr., Madison, second floor. Comments received on or before 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 27, will become part of the preliminary environmental assessment record. Send comments to Otto Oemig by mail at the above postal or email address.

The special registration process allows states to register additional uses of pesticide products other than those listed on their labels, without prior federal approval. It helps growers address local pest problems that cannot be adequately controlled by any available federally registered product. These problems include insect outbreaks, fungal diseases, and grasses and weeds that outcompete crops. Details about the special registration process are available at

<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/SpecialRegistrationApplication.pdf>.

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